

Existing Smart Energy Communities: Applying for Additional Grant Funds



Maryland Energy
ADMINISTRATION
Powering Maryland's Future

How To Apply for Additional Funding: To receive additional funding as a Maryland Smart Energy Community, follow this sequence of steps:

1. Application (Late 2014)

Local governments apply for additional funding to be designated as a Maryland Smart Energy Community and to receive grant funding. The next application period is anticipated to be at the end of 2014, but communities are encouraged to begin evaluating potential energy projects now including details about cost and energy impact (kWhs saved, renewable energy generated). The application involves getting sign-off from the city/county council that they intend to complete the project.

For Additional Information

Go to:

<http://energy.maryland.gov/Govt/smartenergycommunities/>

Or contact Devan Willemssen from MEA devan.willemssen@maryland.gov
or Call at 410-260-7539

Or contact Sean Williamson at the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center at Srw46@umd.edu or
Call at 301-405-8259

2. MEA Application Review (Early 2015)

MEA will evaluate applications based on the following:

- (a) Additional priority will be given to communities that commit to adopting a third policy (i.e., two of three have been adopted) and associated deliverables as a part of the proposed project,
- (b) progress made towards meeting MSEC goals including demonstration of effort and assistance needed,
- (c) past experience and performance with other MEA programs,
- (d) local government's ability to commit staff to completing the project/s in the time provided,
- (e) how innovative a proposed project is,
- (f) how feasible a proposed project is, including potential cost sharing from community (not required),
- (g) expected energy impact of project.

3. Implementation Agreements (Early 2015)

Once applications are approved, each participating local government will sign implementation agreements with MEA. The agreement will state that the local government will complete their proposed project, subject to further discussions between communities and MEA, by June 2015. Depending on availability, communities will be supported in this effort by MEA and the Environmental Finance Center. Communities will also be allowed to use up to 30% of their grant funding on indirect costs (e.g., administrative costs, feasibility studies, etc.). A minimum of 70% of MSEC grant funding must be spent on direct energy project costs (e.g., labor and materials).

4. Funding for Energy-Related Project (To be spent by June 2016)

Once a community enters into an implementation agreement, they should begin finalizing details of their proposed project and submit a separate project approval form to MEA. At the time of final project approval, MEA the community can access full project funding. Projects must have a component related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and/or transportation petroleum reduction, AND the project may be directed at the local government or the community at-large. Projects are subject to MEA's terms and conditions. Projects must be complete and invoiced by June 2015.